



Disaster and Emergency Management Resources

Extreme Heat

While West Virginia generally has temperate climate, periods of high heat can occur.

According to the National Climatic Data Center (NCDC), in July of 1995, three people were hospitalized for heat-related injuries. Similarly, in the summer of 1999, three more people were treated for severe heat disorders.

Generally, extreme heat is classified as temperatures maintained at 10 degrees (Fahrenheit) or more above normal temperatures. The most dangerous occasions are cases where heat has persisted in excess of 100 degrees, combined with high humidity.

Heat-related disorders, such as sunburn, heat cramps, heat exhaustion, and heat stroke, can cause various health problems from simple headaches to fainting and high fever.

In West Virginia, extreme heat constitutes a low risk to the general populace. Educational materials for preventing injury are readily available at <http://www.fema.gov/hazards/extremeheat/heatf.shtm> and news of impending heat conditions are broadcast on local radio and television stations.

Hazard Terminology

Extreme Heat – Generally, temperatures that hover 10 degrees or more above the average high temperature for the region, last for prolonged periods, and are often accompanied by high humidity.

From the West Virginia All Hazard Mitigation Plan, West Virginia Office of Emergency Services